

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 42 and 44 through 46 are pending, with Claims 42 and 46 being independent. Claim 43 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 42 has been amended. Claim 46 has been added. With respect to Claims 42 and 46, Applicants respectfully wish to direct the Examiner's attention to the specification at, e.g., paragraph [0059], which discusses that a new profile can be formed at the skirts of the protruding microstructure, the new profile being an aspherical profile. Of course, the claims are not limited to the disclosed embodiments.

Claims 42 through 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,663,784 B1 (Kummer, et al.) or U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0027300 A1 (Hartmann, et al.). Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Kummer, et al. or Hartmann, et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,056,912 (Hamada, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 42 recites, inter alia, an aspherical surface profile at a skirt portion of a protruding spherical portion.

Claim 46 recites, inter alia, a mold of a microlens having an aspherical surface profile at a skirt portion of a protruding spherical portion.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of Kummer, et al., Hartmann, et al., and Hamada, et al., even in combination, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 42 and 46. The Official Action relies upon Kummer, et al. and Hartmann, et al. for disclosing aspherical surfaces; however, Applicants respectfully submit that such does not constitute either a description or a suggestion of an aspherical surface profile --at a skirt portion of a protruding spherical

portion-- as recited, inter alia, in Claims 42 and 46. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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